

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claims, and listings of claims, in the application.

**1. (Currently Amended)** A system for closing a suction muffler of a hermetic compressor, said suction muffler comprising:

a hollow base;

a cover to be coupled to the hollow base, said parts defined by the hollow base and the cover including mutually seatable peripheral flanges; and

a retaining means affixing the hollow base to the cover in the joining region where said peripheral flanges are mutually seated,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein said peripheral flanges are shaped to define, jointly, an internal channel extended along at least part of the circumferential extension of said peripheral flanges and which is opened to the opposite external faces of the latter by means of throughbores axially aligned to each other in pairs,

wherein each pair of throughbores maintaining a circumferential distance in relation to an adjacent pair of throughbores,

wherein the throughbores of each pair and the internal channel being filled with a gasket of injected material, which projects outwardly from the throughbores so as to define an axial lock portion to be seated on each of the adjacent opposite external faces of said peripheral flanges.

**2. (Previously Presented)** The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the internal channel is continuous along the circumferential extension of the peripheral flanges.

**3. (Previously Presented)** The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each axial lock portion is defined by a projection of the gasket seated on the external face of the adjacent peripheral flange between two adjacent throughbores of two consecutive pairs of throughbores.

**4. (Previously Presented)** The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each axial lock portion is in the form of a widened head seated on the external face of the adjacent peripheral flange.

**5. (Previously Presented)** The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the material of the injected gasket is plastic.

**6. (Previously Presented)** The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hollow base and the cover define, in the mutual seating condition of their peripheral flanges, a labyrinth portion, for sealing the interior of the suction muffler and comprising at least one groove provided in one of said parts defined by the hollow base and the cover and in which is fitted, by interference, a respective rib provided in the other part.

**7. (Previously Presented)** The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein each peripheral flange defines at least one of the parts defined by the groove and the rib.